

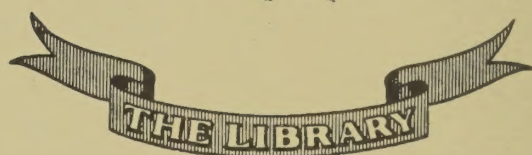
HERCULANEUM



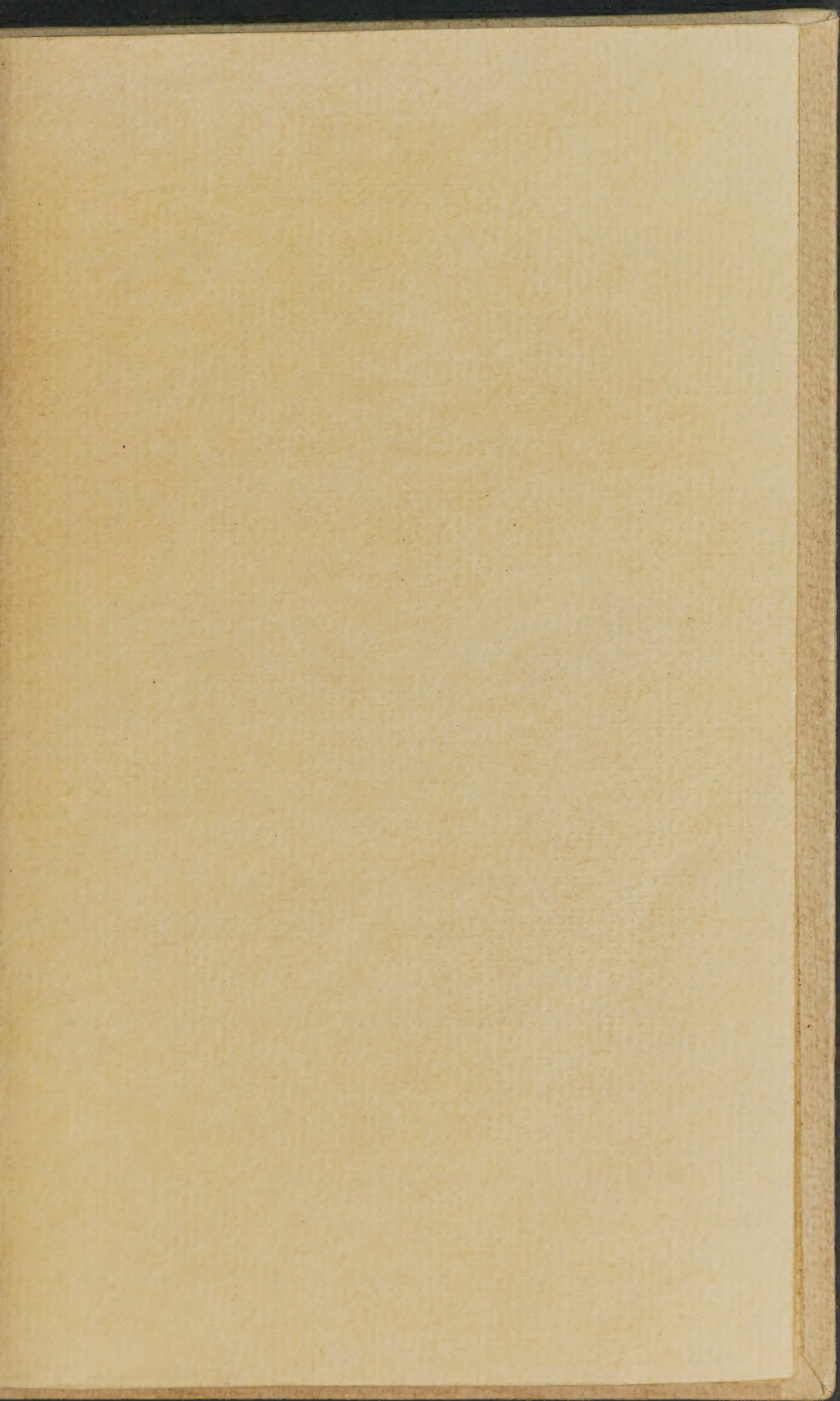


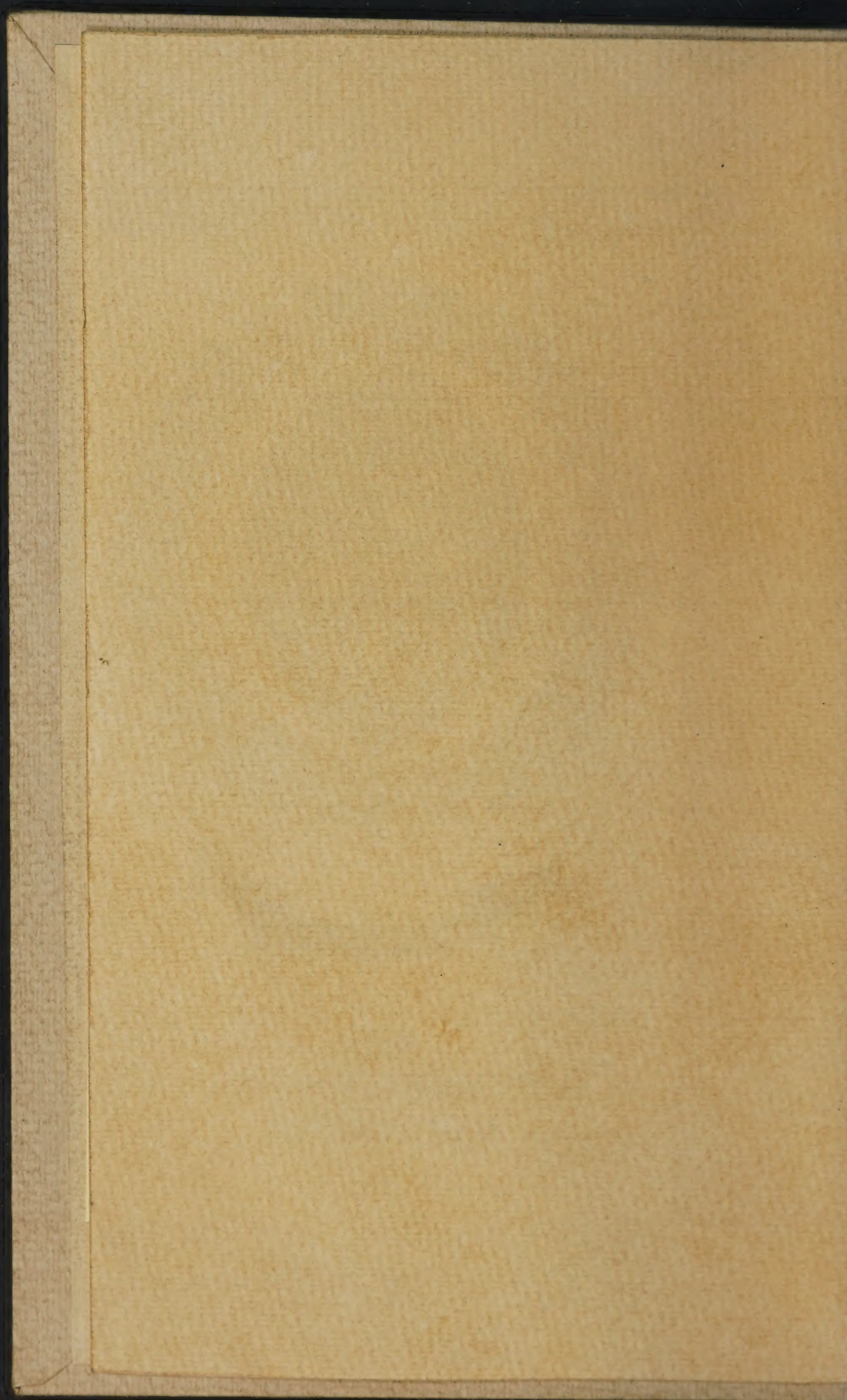






THE
GEORGE PEABODY
COLLECTION





MEMOIRS ^{2/2}
CONCERNING
HERCULANEUM,
THE
SUBTERRANEAN CITY,
Lately discovered at the
Foot of Mount *Vesuvius*,

GIVING

A particular Account of the most remarkable
BUILDINGS, STATUES, PAINTINGS, MEDALS,
and other Curiosities found there to the pre-
sent Time.

Translated from the *Italian* of a Memorial drawn up by
the Secretary of the Marquis *d'Hospital* Ambassador
from *France* to the Court of his *Sicilian* Majesty at
Naples.

And illustrated with Notes,

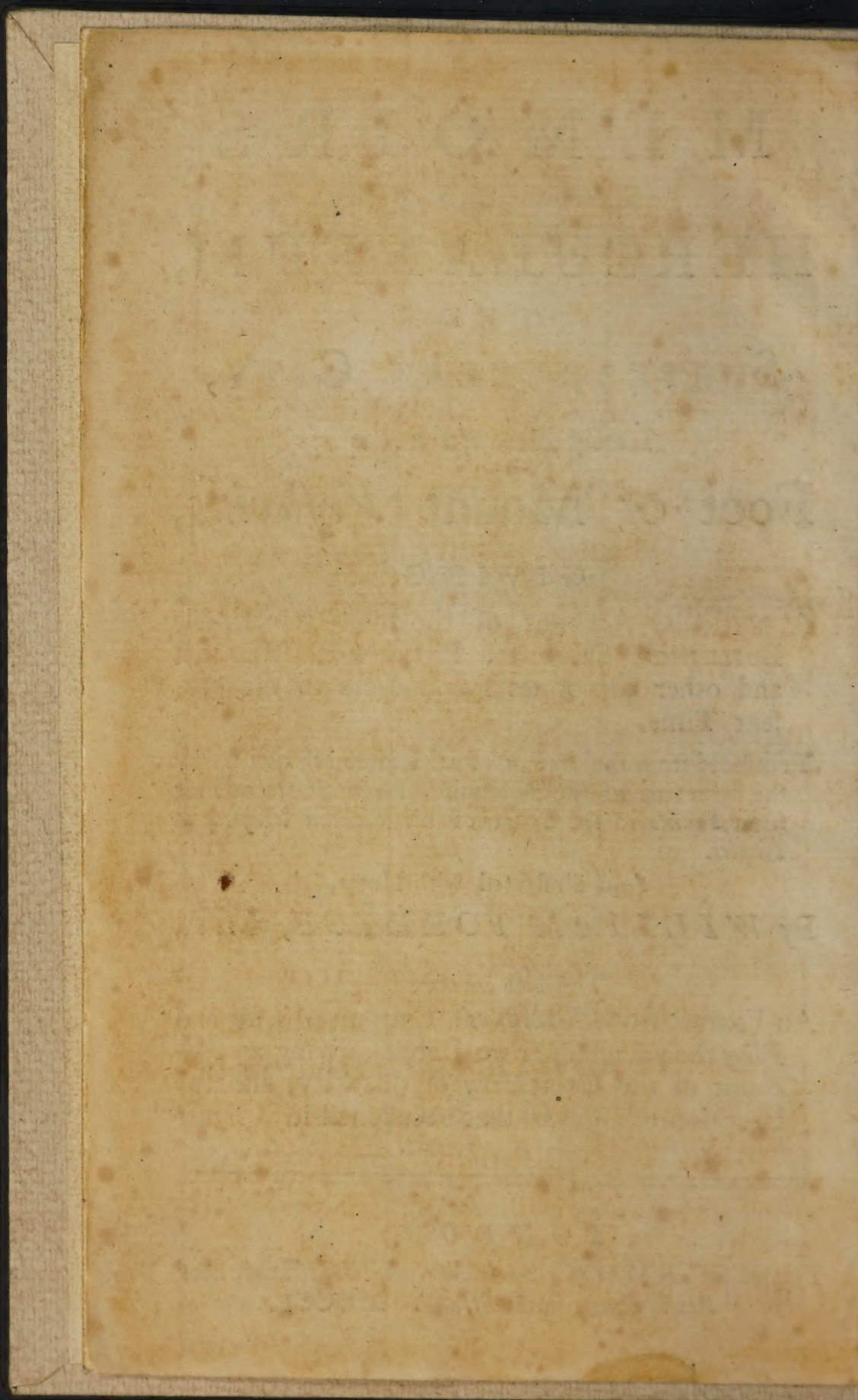
By WILLIAM FORDYCE, M. A.

To which are added

An Extract from *Xiphilinus's* Epitome of *Dion* and
Pliny the younger's Two Letters, giving an Ac-
count of the Overthrow of this City, and the
Eruption of *Vesuvius* that occasioned it.

L O N D O N :

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Round Court, in the *Strand*. MDCCL.



T H E
Translator's Preface
T O T H E
R E A D E R.

AS I had an Opportunity last Winter, when in *Italy*, of viewing the SUBTERRANEAN CITY, and examining the Curiosities they had found there, I could not help wishing, that somebody who had been on the Spot for some time, and who had had Access to know all the Progress they had made, might draw up a Memorial of their Observations. Altho' I had seen *Marchese Venuti's* Account of the first Discoveries of the antient City of *Heraclea*, yet I imagined that its being so mixed with Fable, and Criticisms on Inscriptions, &c. would prevent its pleasing the Generality of Readers, and the more so, as he had not been upon the Spot for the last ten Years,

and his Description of consequence defective in a Number of Particulars, which would be extremely agreeable to the Reader; I afterwards, by accident, met with the Memoirs which I have attempted to translate, and which, I don't doubt, will give the Reader the same Pleasure they did me. As it was drawn up by the Secretary of the Marquis *D'Hospital*, Ambassador from the Court of *France* to his *Sicilian* Majesty, who undoubtedly had sufficient Opportunities of examining in this Affair particularly, I am persuaded it will prove satisfactory. To render it the more agreeable, I have added such Notes as are requisite to illustrate the Subject.

N. B. As *Dion* and *Pliny* the younger have both mentioned the Overthrow of these two Cities, I thought it would be agreeable to the Reader to give a Translation of these Passages. I find these Letters of *Pliny's* so well translated in the *English* Edition of these Letters, published by *R. Dodsley*, that I have given them just as I found them there.

MEMOIRS

CONCERNING

HERCULANEUM.

HIS Highness the Prince of *Elbeuf* having gone to *Naples*, in the Year 1706, and married in 1713, the Daughter of the Duke of *Salsa*, he gave orders to build a Country-house at some Miles distance from that City, in a Place called *Granatiello*, near *Portici*: His Workmen digging in search of Water cut their Way into a Vault, under which they found some Statues, which he ordered to be taken up, and with great Advantage continued his Researches, without having any Notice taken of it at first by the Fiscal. The Noise, how-

^a In 1689, as some Workmen were digging in the Side of Mount *Vesuvius*, at about a Mile's distance from the Sea, they found Strata of horizontal Earth, like so many Pavements laid on purpose, and some Inscriptions shewing that in that Place there had been the *Villa Pompeja*; but digging deeper their Search was stopt by Water, which they found in great abundance. See *Istoria Universal. di M. Bianchini Romæ* 1699, p. 246 & *ivi* 1748.

ever, which these Searches soon occasioned, opened the Eyes of the Government at last, who did not proceed therein, but shut up the Place for the present.

This Discovery was too fresh to be forgotten, when his *Sicilian* Majesty chose *Portici* for a Country Seat. It was the first Care of this Prince to give Orders to digg 80 Feet deep, when they found the Pavement of an ancient City situated under *Portici* and *Resina*, neighbouring Villages about six Miles distant from *Naples*, between Mount *Vesuvius* and the Sea-shore.

SECTION I.

Different Opinions concerning the Subterranean City.

UPON this Discovery, there was a variety of Opinions among the Learned about the ancient Name of this City. Some would have it to be *Pompeja*; others, upon the Credit of *Camillo Pellegrino*^b, maintained that it was *Retina*, of which *Pliny*^c makes mention in a Letter he wrote to *Cornelius Tacitus*, giving him an Account of all the Circumstances attending his Uncle's Death. This last Opinion appears the more plausible, as this City stands in the same Situation which

^b *Camillo Pellegrino's Apparato alle Antiquita di Capua Discorso second. Sect. xxiii.* ^c *Plin. lib. 6. Epist. 16.*

Pliny the younger assigns to *Retina*^d, and as it extends under the Village now called *Resina*, which in one Letter only varies from *Retina*; and it will hardly be wondered at, that so small a Change as that of one Letter, should happen in the Name of a Place during the Course of almost eighteen Centuries.

But *Pellegrino*, and the Writers who follow him, have not taken Notice that *Pliny* does not call *Retina* a City (*Civitas*, *Urbs*, or *Oppidum*, but only a Country Seat (*Villa*) which in the *Latin Idiom* never signifies a City: As then this Discovery is of a City, we conclude that this was not *Retina*, which is never placed by the Ancients among the Cities situated on the Coast of *Naples*: *Pliny* explains himself thus^e, ‘ On this Shore lie ‘ *Naples* and *Herculaneum*, which is but a ‘ little Way distant from *Pompeja*, at the ‘ Foot of *Vesuvius*, and on the Banks of ‘ *Sarno*, &c.’ *Strabo* places *Herculaneum* quite adjoining to *Naples*. *Dionys. Halicarnass.*^f says, that this City was between *Naples* and *Pompeja*. *Seneca*^g gives it the same Situation, in a Letter he writes to his Friend *Lucilius*, about the Earthquake which threw down *Pompeja*, under the Consulship of *Memmius Regulus* and *Virginus Rufus*. The Cities

^d Nam *Villa* ea subiacebat, *Plin.* lib. 6. *Epist.* 23.

^e *Plin.* lib. 3. cap. v.

^f *Dionys. Halicarn.* lib. 1.

^g *Seneca de Quæst. Nat.* l. vi.

which are on this Sea-Coast, says *Florus*^h, are *Formiæ*, *Cuma*, *Puzzuoli*, *Naples*, *Herculaneum* and *Pompeja*. *Ovid*ⁱ conducting *Æneas* from *Sicily*, makes him coast along the Island of *Capræa*, the Promontory of *Minerva*, *Soriento*, *Stabia*, *Herculaneum* and *Naples*. *Columella*^k says, that the Marshes of *Pompeja* are in the Neighbourhood of the Salt-Pits of *Herculaneum*. In short, none of these Author's reckon *Retina* among the Cities which were in the Gulph of *Naples*, and all agree in placing *Herculaneum* between *Naples* and *Pompeja*: And this new discovered City is situated precisely between these two. We cannot then doubt but that this City is *Herculaneum*, as it is at an equal Distance from *Naples* and the Mouth of the *Sarno*, where the Ruins of *Pompeja* are.

Notwithstanding, however, the Silence of ancient Historians and Geographers about *Retina*, one may presume that it was a considerable Place, as there were Soldiers stationed there who served in the Fleet, as *Pliny* the younger^l testifies, adding, that *Retina* was at the Foot of *Vesuvius*, and that no Place was more exposed to the Burnings of this Vulcano.

^h *Flor.* lib. i. Cap. xvi.

v. 709, & sequent.

lib. x. v. 135.

ⁱ *Ovid.* *Metamorph.* xv.

^k *Columell.* *de Cultu Hortor.*

^l *Retina Cassarii imminenti periculo exterriti—Ascendit ipse non Retinæ modo, &c.* *Plin.* lib. 6. *Epist.* 16.

Herculaneum was in the same Condition, if one may judge from the Situation the Antients have given it, and which so perfectly agrees with this subterranean City. But how is it possible that *Herculaneum* and *Retina* should possess the same Ground? Does it not seem that the very same Circumstances applied to two different Objects imply a Contradiction? But this vanishes if we reflect on what *Dion. Halicarn.*^m says, concerning the first Foundation of *Herculaneum*, ‘ The Affairs of *Italy* ‘ being settled to *Hercules*’s Satisfaction, and ‘ his Naval Force being returned from *Spain* ‘ in a good Condition, he offered up in Sa- ‘ crifice to the Gods, the tenth Part of his ‘ Effects, and in the same Place where he ‘ moored his Fleet, *He built a City of his* ‘ *own Name*, inhabited at present by the *Ro-* ‘ *mans*, between *Pompeja* and *Naples*, with ‘ secure Harbours in all Weathers.’—It is evident then that *Hercules*’s Fleet was there at Anchor. Is it not therefore natural to think that the Place where they were, was then called *Retina*, and that still after the Foundation by *Hercules*, the Name of *Retina* was retained in the Maritime Part of this City, at whose Extremities were situated these Ports, as *Strabo* well observesⁿ? If there are at present no Vestiges of these, it is owing to their having

^m *Dionys. Halicarn.* lib. x.

ⁿ *Strabo*, lib. v.

been filled up at the same time that *Herculaneum* was buried under the Ashes.

The Cafe was probably the same with the *Sarno*°, which passed by the Walls of this City, and which by giving the Inhabitants an easy way of transporting their Merchandize by Water, formed the Magazines of *Nola*°, *Nocera*, and *Acerra*.

The Bed of this River must probably have been filled in the same manner, by changing the Level of the Ground, and forcing the River to alter its Course. But tho' these Proofs were not sufficient to demonstrate that this lately discovered City is truly the old *Herculaneum*, all these Doubts would vanish upon seeing the Inscriptions which are daily found, and some of which shall be inserted in this Account.

S E C T I O N II.

Of the ancient City of Herculaneum.

IF we form our Calculation upon what *Dionys. Halicarnass.* relates of the founding of *Herculaneum*, it is not difficult to establish its Date: He, as it has been seen, fixes it to the time that *Hercules* disembark'd in *Italy*, after his Expedition to *Spain*, viz.

• *Plin.* lib. iii. Cap. v.

• *Strabo*, lib. v.

sixty Years before the War of *Troy*, and consequently 1342, before the Christian *Æra*.

This City inhabited successively by the ^a*Osci*, *Tuscan*s, *Pelagi*, *Samnites* and *Romans*, was considerably damaged * under the Empire of *Nero*, by the same Earthquake that destroyed *Pompeja*, the 5th of *February*, in the sixty-third Year of Christ; and its Ruin was completed by the Eruption of *Vesuvius*, which happened in the 1st Year of *Titus's* Reign, according to *Eusebius*, *Zonara* and *Agricola*, or in the 3d Year according to *Georgius Cedrenus*, Cardinal *Baronius*, and many others; but the Chronology of the 1st ought to be preferred.

In fact we see in *Suetonius*, that *Titus* shewed on this Occasion not only the Tenderness of a good Father by the Supplies he gave,

^a *Strabo*, lib. v.

^r *Capuans*.

^s *Pompejos*

celebrem Campaniæ Urbem in quam ab altera parte *Surrentinum* *Stabianumque* *Littus*, ab altera *Herculanense* conveniunt, mareque ex aperto conductum amæno *Sinu* cingit, decedisse terræ motu, vexatis quæcumque adjacent *Regionibus*, *Lucili Virorum* optime, audivimus, & quidem diebus hibernis quos vacare a tali periculo majores nostri solebant permittere, nonis *Februariis* fuit motus, *Regulo* & *Virginio* *Consulibus* qui *Campaniam* nunquam securam ejus mali indemnem tamen & toties defunctam metû, magna strage vastavit, nam & *Herculanensis* oppidi pars ruit, dubieque stant etiam quæ relicta sunt, &c. *Question. lib. 6. Cap. 1.*

but

but the Fore-sight too of a wise Emperor, in the Measures he took, having assigned the Effects of all those Inhabitants who died without Heirs for the Re-establishment of this desolated City.

Dion * and *Zonara* " add, that in the Year in which this terrible Accident happened, *Titus* sent Colonies, gave generous Donations, came himself into *Campania*, examined carefully with his own Eyes, the Losses which the People of this Province had suffered, gave the *Neapolitans* magnificent Spectacles to wear off their Grief, and erected again at his own Expence their Gymnasium, which had been thrown down by these continual Earthquakes, which had attended the Eruptions, and which according to the Testimony of *Pliny* the younger " , ' were so violent that ' the Houses being shaken to the very Foundations, quivered and seemed incessantly as ' if they were shifting from their Place and ' returning again immediately, so as to threaten ' inevitable Ruin.'

Titus's Journey into *Campania* is attested by too many Authors to be called in Question, and with respect to the rebuilding of the Gymnasium of *Naples* by this Emperor, there is an excellent Proof of it in the *Greek* and

* *Dion.* lib. xvi.
Tito, lib. 11.

" *Zon. Vit. Imp.* v. *Quella di*
" *Plin.* lib. 6. *Epist.* 16 and 20.

Latin Inscriptions *, in which the times of the Ruin, and Re-establishment of this Edifice are distinctly marked out. How could it be possible that *Titus* should have given so many Orders, made such Dispositions, and endured such Fatigues, if the Eruption had happened the last Year of his Reign? He could scarce have had time to think of it as it was not more than 18 Days from the Burning of *Vesuvio*, which began ^y the 24th of *August*, and the Death of this Emperor, which happened the 13th of *September*. But every difficulty is removed if we stand to what *George Agricola* says ^z. He fixes the time of the Eruption in the seventh Consulate of *Titus*,

* ΤΙΤΟΣ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ

ΟΥΕΣΠΑΣΙΑΝΟΣ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ

.. ΕΚΗΣ. ΕΞΟΥΣΙΑΣ. ΤΟ. Ι

.. ΟΣΗΠΑΤΟΣ. ΤΟ Η ΤΕΙΜΗΤΗΣ

αων ΟΘΕΥΗΣΑΣΤΟ. Γ. ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΗΣΑΣ.

ΣΥΜΠΕΣΟΝΙΑ. ΑΠΟΚΑΤΕΣΤΗΣΕΝ.

NI. F. VESPASIANUS AUG.

COS VIII CENSOR P. P.

terræmo TIBUS CONLAPSA. RESTITUIT.

This Inscription is engraved on a large Piece of Marble, which is still to be seen at *Naples*, fixed in a Wall near the Fountain of the *Anunciada*. As the Marble is not entire, the Inscription is imperfect in some Places. The Antiquaries who chose to fill up the Parts which were wanting, have supplied these Letters which you see above in small Characters. ^y *Nono Cal. Septembris*

horâ diei fere septimâ, &c. Plin. lib. 6. Epist. 16.

^z *Georg. Agricola, de Natura eorum quæ offluunt in terra* lib. 5.

which is precisely the 1st Year of his Reign, an Epocha established by *Eusebius* and *Zonara*, and which appears so much the more certain as it agrees with all the Historical Facts; since thus we can easily conceive that *Titus* might have time to take, in the following Years, all the Measures necessary to repair the Disasters of *Campania*, as *Sueton* and *Dion* say he did, and to rebuild the Gymnasium of *Naples*, as has been seen in the above-mentioned Inscription. We may likewise see that he did this in his eighth Consulate, which falls in exactly with the 2d Year of his Empire. In this manner it is past all doubt that the Burning of *Vesuvius* happened in the 1st Year of *Titus*, the 24th of *August*, in the 79th Year of the Christian Æra. Now admitting that the Siege of *Troy* was 60 Years later than the founding of *Herculaneum*, this City must have stood 1420 Years.

S E C T I O N III.

Of the Lava and Inundations which sometimes accompany the Burning of Vesuvius.

THE Matter under which this City lies buried, is not all of one sort; in some Places it is the Lava of *Vesuvius*, in others a kind of Mortar or very hard Cement.

The *Neapolitans* give the Name of Lava to these Rivers of Sulphur, of Rocks and Bitu-
 I men,

men, mixed together, which *Vesuvius* vomits forth in its Fury. These burning Materials don't run with the Impetuosity of a Torrent, but form a thick and viscous Matter, which like Paste or melted Glass, flows slowly and preserves its Heat a great while, till it reaches the Sea, where this Matter has gradually formed Promontories in different Places: As the Lava loses its Heat, it stops and becomes as hard a Mass as Marble itself, takes the same Figure, and serves for the same Purposes.

One may easily conceive how, while this Matter is liquid, it insinuates itself into all the void Spaces it meets with in its Passage, and therefore it is not strange that those Places through which it directs its Course in *Herculaneum*, are as well filled up as if it had been done with melted Lead: Such is one part of the Theatre and many of the neighbouring Buildings, which has undoubtedly been the reason that they have found Pieces of Statues of Bronze, while what is wanting in them have probably been melted by the Heat of the Lava.

Since that Eruption which buried *Herculaneum*, they reckon twenty-six others, the Lava of which too have passed over this ruin'd City, and is probably the reason that there is a Vault or Body of these Materials to the Thickness of eighty Feet, between this City and the Pavement of *Portici*.

It seems nevertheless that these Rivers of Fire formerly passed over, only the lesser Part of the City, but that the rest was buried under a kind of Mortar or hard Cement composed of Earth and of the Ashes of *Vesuvius*, bound together by Water: This Cement has not only filled the Streets, the Piazzas and other open Places, but has penetrated into all the Edifices without damaging them, and has filled up every empty Space. How can one explain this Singularity without supposing that *Vesuvius* had begun to throw out such Quantities of Ashes as to exceed in height the highest Edifices, and that afterwards the Waters of the Sea having penetrated into the Furnaces of this Vulcano had again been thrown out of its Mouth; that these Torrents had drawn the Ashes within, into the Buildings where they had been stopped by the different Obstacles which had presented themselves, were moulded by their own Weight, which was great, and constantly encreased by the fresh Supplies of the other Ashes which keep continually pouring down from the Mountain.

If we chose to follow the Opinion of the Academy of *Naples*, we should attribute these Effects to the great Rains which fall soon after these Eruptions; but to produce this Effect, we must suppose an incredible Quantity of Water would be wanted, so that the first
Supposition

Supposition will be attended with less Inconveniency.

But besides it is founded on the Testimony of many Authors ^a, who assure us, that in some Eruptions *Vesuvius* has thrown out as much Water as Fire, and among others in that Eruption of 1631, that the Port of *Naples* on the 10th of *December* ^b turned and continued dry for some short space of time, and that all kinds of Shell Fish were mixed with the Lava which had run down from the Mountain.

If this last Circumstance be true, it is an undoubted Proof that the Water of the Sea had penetrated into the Vulcano, and had come out at its Mouth: The Inscription made at that time at the Gate of *Portici* seems to say so ^c, and another at the *Torre di Græ-*

^a *Celano*, Tom. IV. p. 4. ^b *Dominico Antonio Penino*, Part. XI. S. xiii. ^c *Posterius Posterius Vestrares agitur.—Dies face præfert Diei, Nudius perendino. Advertite! Viciis ab fatu Solis, ni fabulatur Historia arsit Vesuvius, immani semper clade hæsitantium: ne post hæc incertos occupet, moneo. Uterum gerit mons hic bitumine, Alumine, Ferro, Sulphure, auro, argento, Nitro, Aquarum fontibus gravem. Serius, ocius ignescit, Pelagoque Influyente, pariet; sed ante parturit concutitur, concutitque solum, fumigat, coruscat, flammigerat, quatit aerem, horrendum immugit, boat, tonat, arcet finibus Accolas. Emigrandum licet; jamjam enititur, erumpit. Mixtum Igne lacum evomit præcipiti ruit ille lapsu fugamque prævertit. Si corripit actum est, periisti Anno Salut. M. D. C. XXXI. Kal. Januarii, &c.*

This Inscription is on the Street of *Portici*.

co^d, strengthens this Conjecture. *Domenico Antonio Penino* in his Description * of the Gulph of *Naples*, speaking of the Eruption of 1698, assures us that the Sea withdrew 12 Paces all of a sudden, and its Waters issued forth at the same time from the *Vulcano*, so that they found a Quantity of different kinds of Shell Fish calcined, which had the Smell of Sulphur. *Pliny* the younger, who was an Eye-Witness to the Eruption in which his Uncle perished at the same time that *Herculaneum* was destroyed, asserts positively that the Sea seemed to be ingulphed and driven back by the Shocks of the Earth.

¶ Viam a Neapoli ad Rhegium perpetuis ante latrociniiis infamem, & conflagrati Vesuvii saxis impeditam, purgato insidiis loco, exæquata Planitie, latam, rectamque direxit ære provinciali Perafanus Ribera Alcananorum Dux, Prorex, A. M. D. Lxiii At O! viii, & Lx. Post anno Kal. Jan. Philippo IV. regnante fumo, flammis & Boatu concussus cinere, Eruptione horrificus, ferus si unquam Vesuvius nec nomen nec fasces tanti Viri extimuit, quippe ex ardesciente cæsis specubus, igne, ignitus, furens, irrugiens exitium eructans coercitus aer, Discerpto violenter montis cacumine, immani hiatu erupit postridie: ejaculans trans Hellespontum cinerem; *pone trahens ad explendum vicem* Pelagus, immite pelagus, fluvios sulphureos, flammatum Bitumen, fletus alumine cavus Informem cujuslibet metalli rudus, *mixtum aquarum fluminibus ignem* ferreumque undante fumo Cinere seseque funestam Colluviem. Jugo montis exonerans Pompejos, *Herculanum* Octavianum præstrictis Refina & Porticu Silvasque, Villasque, Ædesque momento stravit, ussit, dirupit; luctuosam præ se prædam agens Vastumque Triumphum, &c.

* Parte XI. S. xiii.

But

But however this may be, it is a certain Fact that every Part is full in *Herculaneum*: To enter into the Streets or Houses you must dig by breaking with the Point of a Hammer the Lava or Cement which fills and envelops every Part. If it was not for this, the greatest part of the Buildings would fall, as they hang much to one Side. Now it is remarkable that their Inclination is every where towards the Sea Side, and thence natural to suppose that it was occasioned by the Weight of the Water, which would have entirely ruined and destroyed *Herculaneum*, if it had not been filled and formed so as that every Part reciprocally supported and sustained each other; and as this City on the other Side was entirely buried under the Ashes, there was nothing presented but an even Surface upon which the Torrents glided along without resistance and of consequence easily^f.

^f Though we can easily conceive by our Author's Account of the Matter, how the Lava supported the Walls of the Houses when forced off their Perpendicular, yet we cannot so easily comprehend how the Ashes could do that, unless they issued from the Mountain mixed with a sufficient Proportion of Water to form a Paste of a proper Thickness and Consistence.

SECTION IV.

Of the Theatre of Herculaneum.

HIS Sicilian Majesty had no sooner given Orders to set about digging under *Portici* and *Resina*, than they found some Statues of the Family of the *Balbi*, and some Paintings in Fresco.

Good fortune soon conducted the Workmen into a Theatre^s. which appeared to be of *Greek* Architecture, as far as we may judge from *Vitruvius*; and in reality the 21 Steps or Seats are not separated by Sevens as among the *Romans* by a small Plain, they likewise touch and follow each other, and probably if they would dig among the 7 little Stairs which divide equally the Rows of Seats, they would find Earthen or Brass Vessels,

■ It is a difficult thing to know when the antient Authors speak of a Theatre and Amphitheatre, as these Appellations are used indifferently. The *Græcians* hardly use this Word, if we except *Herodian*. The Theatres of *Cajus*, *Scribonius* and *Curio*, were Amphitheatres (*Cicer.* 1. 8. Ep. 3. *Theatrum Curionis.* *Plin.* 1. 36. Cap. 13.) Thus *Spartianus* says, that the Theatre which was erected by *Trajan's* Order in the *Campus Martius*, was destroyed, which *Pausanius* says was an Amphitheatre; and *Dion* describes likewise the Amphitheatre of *Julius Cæsar*, but will not call it by that Name. See *Marchese Venuti's* Description of the first Discoveries of *Heraclea*, P. 2. Ch. 3.

which

which the *Greeks* made use of to encrease their Actors Voices ^h

The Theatre is 290 Feet in Circumference on the Outside, 230 on the Inside to the Scenes, 160 outward Breadth, and 130 inward. The Place of the Scene or Pulpitum is about 72 Feet large, and only about 30 Feet high.

Like all these of Antiquity, this Theatre is of the Shape of a Horse-Shoe, or rather describes a Semicircle, in the Inside of which are 21 Rows of Seats, which go from the same Center, and whose Diameters become larger in Proportion as these rise upwards. This Semicircle is terminated in a long Square, divided into three Parts: That of the Middle has all the Breadth which reaches from the third Degree downwards to that which is opposite on the other Side, and has at bottom a Facade of the *Doric* Order, in which are three Outlets. There was the Pulpit or fore-part of the Stage where the Actors represented the Piece. Their Proscenium behind the Facade, and the other two Parts of the long Square occupied the Space from the third Degree to the greatest Breadth of the Flanks of the Theatre ⁱ.

That

^h Those who have an Opportunity of being at *Rome*, may see how they fitted up these Pots to encrease the Sound; in the Circus of *Caracalla* beyond *St. Schastian's* at *Rome*.

ⁱ A Figure is wanting here to render this Description more intelligible, but it may easily be conceived

That Space which is betwixt the Pulpit and the Seats was the Orchestra^k, where there is still, as likewise under the Stage, a Quantity of Wood reduced to Charcoal, which is another Proof that this Theatre was built by the *Græcians*, because among the *Romans* the Orchestra being destined for the Senators and Vestal Virgins, it was entirely useless to make that of Wood which the *Athenians* designed only for the Convenience of the Dancers.

All the upper Part of the Stage was likewise adorned with a great many Works of Wood, which altho' somewhat burnt still preserve their Shape so much, that if one may conjecture, the Theatre had Machines which were equally common among the *Greeks* and *Romans*. The first had Flights and Changes of Decorations as ours, and we know that

of by the Figure of one which *Palladio* executed the Model of in a very ingenious Manner at *Vicenza*.

^k Seigneur *Maffei* says, that the Orchestra was that Part which we call the Platea. As among the *Græcians* the Orchestra or Platea was used sometimes for Shows and at other times for Dancing; those who sat on the Benches that were nearest the Platea were said to sit on the Orchestra, and this might be the Case among the *Romans* in their Amphitheatres, whose Platea, tho' it served for cruel Exercises, retained the ancient Name of Orchestra, whence these who sat in the Orchestra of the Amphitheatres and Theatres, were to be understood to sit in the Rows next the Platea, and the same Explanation may be applied to the *Linea Dives* of *Martial*. See *Marchese Venuti's* Description of these Discoveries.

among

among the last, an Actor who played the Part of *Icarus* did it so naturally as to fall at the Feet of *Nero* and besprinkle him with Blood.

There were three Galleries raised the one above the other, not quite perpendicularly, but so that the lower Wall resting on the Steps, served as a Portico by which they entered into the Theatre and seated themselves: The upper Corridore or Gallery answered to the seven Steps or Seats higher up, and which alone was covered, and therefore intended for the Ladies.

Lastly, this magnificent Fabric was entirely crusted over with the finest Marbles of Antiquity, enriched with Columns and Statues; the greatest Part of which are so well preserved in their Niches, that it would be an easy matter to re-establish them in all their Perfection: but as the Work was set about at first in the manner of mining, they thought of nothing but the removing all the Ornaments of this Theatre, so that at present there remains only the massy Lumps of so beautiful a building under a Vault of eighty Feet in Thickness, which nevertheless does not hinder one who is below in the ancient City from hearing distinctly the Noise of the Carriages which pass through *Portici*. Notwithstanding that all imaginable Care has been taken to know with certainty the Plane of this Edifice of which we have attempted

to give an Idea, we cannot warrant these Measures as altogether just, as one can only see it in detached Parts, the whole never having been brought into view, but only successively, because in clearing away one Part the other must be filled, so that in reality one can hardly see the half; it is the same with regard to the other Buildings of which we shall speak in these Memoirs.

Long after the Discovery of the Theatre they found the following Inscription, L. ANNIUS L. F. MAMMIANUS. RUFUS II. VIR QUNQ. THEATRO.... NUMISIUS P. F. ARO HERCVLAN ...¹. The Marble on which this Inscription was, is so ruined that it was not possible to take it out entire, and we only mention it here as it was the first Proof they had, that this Subterranean City was *Herculaneum*.

SECTION V.

Of the Forum of Herculaneum, and the two neighbouring Temples.

IN carrying on their Works towards the *Portici* Side, they found a large Street

¹ *Marchese Venuti* is of Opinion that this *Numisus* is he who lived in the Time of *Augustus*, and of whom *Vitruvius* makes mention in his Preface under the Name of *Minidius* and *Numidius*. See *Marchese Venut*. Account of the first Discoveries.

36 Feet broad, and flanked on the right and left by two Risings of the Ground, adorned with Porticos under which People might walk afoot. This Street conducted the Workmen to three publick Buildings, two of which were contiguous, and they found by the Front of the Greatest, that it was only separated by a Street which formed betwixt them a Portico or Vestible which was common to them, and was covered with a Roof which equally extended over the three Buildings.

Upon comparing the most considerable of these Edifices with the Description which *Vitruvius* gives ^m of Gymnasiums, it is easily known not to be one, altho' there are Porticos which may be taken for those in which the Masters gave their public Lectures. One might, if it was necessary, find the Ephebeum where only Youth studied, the Coryceum or Apodyterion where they deposited the Habits proper for the Exercises, and the Cestus's for the Athletæ ⁿ; but there were wanting the Palæstra, the Sphæristerion, the Baths, and the Stadium, and moreover this Edifice was paved, whereas the Gymnasiums were not.

As this Fabric is almost entirely brought in View, there is no Appearance of its being a

^m *Vitruv.* lib. xv. c. xi. ⁿ See a very ingenious and particular Account of these Games and what belonged to them, in Mr. *West's* Olympics.

Basilica, as these sort of Buildings have always been made with Roofs and Galleries raised on Pillars, with Shops on the two Sides, which were not found in this Building; yet notwithstanding, there are, towards the Middle of this, two Kinds of Tribunals, which may be looked on as the place where the Centumvirs and Tribunes seated themselves to administer Justice; but this is not a reason sufficient to evince that it was a *Basilica*.

We might suppose with more probability, that this is a Calcidicum, if we were not too much in the Dark with regard to the Nature of the Building to which the Ancients gave this Name; some of the Moderns pretending to prove by the Etymology of the Word, that this was a Bank, and the very Place where the Money was coined, while others maintain that it was a Hall in the Forum, allotted for the Advocates and Orators.

From an Inscription found in this last Age near *Portici*, there is a Proof that there was a Calcidicum in *Herculaneum* °; but it is not likely

° PRIDIE. K. MARTIAS IN. CUR. SCRIBENDO.
ADFUERE. CUNCTI. QUOD. VERBA. FACTA.
SUNT. M. M. MEMMIOS. RUFOS. PAT. & FIL.
& VIRI. ITER.. PECUNIA. PONDERATI.
& CALCIDICUM & SCHOLAM SECUNDUM MU-
NICIP. SPLENDOREM. FECISSE QUÆ. TUERI.
PUBLICÆ. DECRETO. D. E. R. I. C. PLACERE.
HUIC ORDINI CUM M. M. RUFI PAT. &
FIL. II. VIR. ITER. IN EDENDIS. MUNERIBUS.
ADEO

likely that this is the Building found in the Ruins of this Subterranean City, as it is open at Top, which is contrary to the Idea we have of a Calcidicum, which is described as a magnificent Hall, without explaining either its Use or Construction. It seems that *Vitruvius* would have us conceive of it as commonly placed at the Extremity of the Basilica, whence we may infer that the Fabric we treat of is not a Calcidicum, as we find that there was no Basilica attached to it; and that it is a Building detached from any other except the Exterior Part which is common to the two small Temples.

ADEO LIBERALES. FUERINT. UT. EORUM.
MONUMENTA. DECORI MUNICIPIO SINT
ADEO DILIGENTES. UT VITIIS. PUNDE-
RUM. OCCURRERINT. IDQUE IN PERPE-
TUUM. PROVIDERINT PLACERE. DECURIO-
NIB. M. M. MEMMIOS RUFOS. PAT. & FIT.
DUM II VIVERENT. EORUM POS. . . M. ET.
SCHOLÆ & CALCIDICI. QUÆ IPSI FECISSENT.
PROCURATIONEM. DARI. UTQUE SERVOS.
EJUS . . . M. P. JUS. EST. . . NEGOTIO, PRÆ-
PONERENT. IDEOQUE INDE. ABDUCI. SINE
DECURIONUM DECRETO & M. M. MEMMIIS
RUFIS PAT. & FIL PUBLICI. GRATIAS.
AGEI. QUOD ITERATIONI. HONORI. EO-
RUM. NON AMBITIONEI. NEQUE JACTA-
TIONI. SUÆ DEDERINT SED IN CULTUM.
MUNICIPI. & DECOREM CONTULERINT.

As we could not see the Original of the above Inscription, we have given it as we found it.

All that is most observable in this Structure, agrees perfectly well with the Forum Civile, or Place of Justice of the Ancients. That of *Julius Cæsar* at Rome had near it the Temples of Peace and *Venus* ^p, that of *Augustus* was near the Temple of *Mars* ^a the Avenger, and that of *Narva*, near the Temple of *Pallas* and *Janus Quadriceps*. Each of these Forums had Porticos, and were adorned with a great number of Statues ^r, afoot or sitting, and some *Equestrian*, as among the first that of *Julius Cæsar* made by ^s *Lisippus* of gilded Bronze. *Trajan* had his likewise placed on the Porticos of his Forum ^t, where the Consuls met on the 1st of *January* on Account of the Ceremonies of delivering the Slaves: In fine, all these Buildings were designed for the Distribution of Justice.

Upon an Examination of this Place of which we have been talking, we must immediately conclude that it is the Forum of the

^p *Donatus*, lib. 2. c. xxii.

^a *Sueton. in Augusto.*

^r *Onofr. Panvinio Nardini.*

^s *Sueton. in Julio Cæ-*

sare. *Plin.* lib. viii.

^t *Cedat Equus Latiae qui contra templa Diones
Cæsari stat sede fori quem tradere es ausus
Pellæo Lisippe Duci; mox Cæsaris Ora
Aurata cervice tulit, &c.* *Statius*, lib. 1. Sylv.

^u *Nam modo nos jam festa vocant & ad Ulpia poscunt
Te fora, donabis quos libertate Quirites
Perge. Pater Patriæ felix atque omnino faustæ
Captivos Vincit novos absolve Vetustos.*

Sidon. Appol. Am. Marcel. lib. xxii.

Herculaneans. Its Plane forms a Paralellogram 178 Feet long and 132 broad.

At first Sight this seems to have been one of the Temples which the Ancients called *Peripteres*, being surrounded with Columns which sustain the Roof of the Portico, which goes within-side all round: The Middle of this Fabric is open, and its Level is about 2 Feet lower than the Portico, to which you ascend by 3 Steps: At about forty Feet distance from this they found two other Squares, each eighteen Feet in Front, with the Sides supported on the Porticos and about four Feet high. In the Extremity there is a Square, the Sides of which are 24 Feet high. The outward Part of this Building resembles the Sanctuary in Temples: Three Steps lead into this Square, in the Bottom of which is a long Base like our Altars, above which there were three Statues of Marble: That in the Middle is a *Pedestrian* one of *Vespasian*, and the others were seated in Curule Chairs, but without Heads, which have not as yet been found. Under the Portico at the End, and precisely in the Angles which make the Junction with the Porticos of the Sides, there were two semicircular Cavities, in each of which there was a Statue of Bronze, about 9 Feet in height and of great Beauty, the one of *Nero* and the other of *Germanicus*. The Columns which form the inward Porticos were forty-two in

E Number

Number, counting these of the Angles, viz. seventeen on each Side and eight in the Bottom.

To each of these Columns a half Column corresponds, set up on the Back of a Pilaster. There were placed alternately among these Pilasters, Statues of Marble and Bronze. Of these of Bronze they have only found some Pieces, the rest having been probably melted down by the Heat of the Lava, or destroyed by Time.

Of these they found of Marble on the left Hand, some were entire and others broken, but these on the right had formerly been removed, as may be known by the old hollow Places which are still to be seen. The Facade of this Building presented you with five Entries, two of which led to the lateral Porticos, and three into the Middle; these were formed of four great Pilasters which divided the Facade into five equal Parts. Opposite to each of these Pilasters there was an Equestrian Statue, two of them of Bronze and entirely destroyed, and two of Marble, one of which is perfectly restored, and is the Admiration of the Conoisseurs, who think it better than that of *Marcus Aurelius* which stands on the Capitol^w. The Inscription^x is to be seen

^w This is still a disputed Point, and many give it against the Statue of *Balbus*. ^x M. NONIO M. F. BALBO, P. R. PRO. COS. HERCULANENSES.

engraved on the Pedestal, which was erected by the Inhabitants of *Herculaneum* to *M. Nonius Balbus*. They have not discovered what kind of Facade that is on the other Side of that Roof, which covers the great Portico common to the two small Temples which are in front. This Portico was paved with Marble, but the Walls were not lined with it ; being painted in Fresco, and from thence were taken some of these rare and valuable Pieces which are now in the Cabinet of his *Sicilian* Majesty.

Does not one see then in this Description the Forum of *Herculaneum*? There seems to be nothing wanting to give us a full Conviction ; besides you find every thing here which distinguishes it from all other kind of Fabrics : It has been proved, that the Forums of *Julius Cæsar*, *Augustus* and *Narva*, had different Temples near them, and there are two in the Facade of this Fabric of which we are speaking.

There is nothing particular in these two Temples ; their Plane is a Paralellogram, but their Size is very unequal ; the one is 150 Feet long and 60 broad, the other is only 60 Feet in Length, and in Breadth 42. The Sanctuary is in their Extremities : In the greatest it goes out of the Square, and the Altar is in the Middle : In the least the Sanctuary stands in the Square itself, in the inner

Part of the Temple, and is shut up by a Wall which has only one Door, in the Facade of which is placed the Statue of the Divinity with the Altar ; and one, I think, may presume that this second Temple is that kind of Chapel which the *Romans* called *Ædícula*.

Entering into this last Temple by the only Gate that it has, which is in the middle of the Facade, they found two other Altars on which they probably sacrificed ; and in the Space which is between the Pilasters of the Gate and the side Walls of the Temple there were two kind of small Halls, which were probably the Donative, where they disposed of the Offerings, and where they kept the Sacred Beds, the Vessels, the Instruments, and other Utensils proper for the Sacrifices.

In the Facade of the other Temple there were two Entries, and against the outward Wall which separated them, there leans a great Pedestal of 12 Feet in Front ; above which were found some Pieces of a Chariot of Bronze, whence one may infer that this Pedestal served as a Base to some Curule Statue.

These two Temples were covered with a Roof: Their inward Walls were adorned with Columns, betwixt which there were alternately Pictures in Fresco, and great Tables of Marble encrusted upon the Wall, on which are engraved the Names of the Magistrates

who had presided at the Dedication of these Temples, and those of the Colleges, Companies, and Corporations, who had been at the Expence of building or repairing them. Thence it deserves to be remarked, that Inscriptions of this kind are found in the Sides, which is a Proof that they were not placed always in the Front, as was the common Opinion.

Those, however, who may, after this, examine into the Truth of these Descriptions on the Spot, will perhaps be surprized to find no Vestige either of the Forum or of the neighbouring Temples; but they ought to remember, that in proportion as they dig anew, they fill up these places already visited, as I have said above.

SECTION VI.

Of the Houses and Streets of Herculaneum.

Hitherto there have no Houses been found in *Herculaneum* which deserve our particular Notice. All these which have been discovered in about 300 Perches in Length, and 150 in Breadth, appear of an uniform Architecture: The Colony of *Herculaneum* was obliged, by Laws made at different Times, to keep them in order, and more particularly by

by those of *Claudius* * and *Nero* ^r, engraven on
Tables of Brass, which were found fastened
in

* CN. HOSIDIO. GETA. L. VAGELLIO. COS
X CAL: OCTOB. S. C. Cum Providentia optumi
principis tectis quoque urbis nostræ & totius Italiæ Æ-
ternitati prospexerit, quibus ipse non solum præcepto
augustissimo sed etiam exemplo suo prodest, con-
veniretque fælicitati secuti instantis proportioni pub-
licorum operum etiam privatorum Custodiæ deberent
quæ abstinere se omnes cruentissimæ genere negotiatio-
nis ne Inimicissimam pace faciem inducerent Ruinis
domum Villarumque placere, si quis negotiandi causa
emisset aliquod Edificium, ut diruendo plus acquirerent
quam quanti emisset; tum duplam pecuniam qua mer-
catus eam reemisset in æra inferri utique de eo nihil omni-
bus ad Senatum referretur; cumque æque non oporteret
malo exemplo vendere quam emere; Venditores quo-
que coercerentur qui scientes dolo malo contra hanc Se-
natus voluntatem vendidissent, placere tales Venditiones
irritas fieri, cæterum testari Senatum dominis constitui,
qui rerum suarum possessores futuri, aliquas partes earum
mutaverint dum non negotiationis causa id factum cen-
suerint in Senatu fuerunt, CCC. LXXXIII.

^r VOLUSIO. P. CORNELIO. COS. VI. NON.
MART. S. C. quoque VOLUSIUS P. CORNELIUS.
VERB. FECERUNT. DE POSTULATIONE.
NECESSARIORUM ALLIATORIÆ CLESILIÆ.
Q. D. E. R. F. P. D. F. R. I. C.

Cum S. C. quod factum est Hosidio GETA L
VAGELLIE COS. clarissimis Viris Ante X. K. Oct.
autore D. Claudio cautum esset ne quis Domum
Villamve derueret, quod sibi acquireret, neve quis
Negotiandi causa, eorum quid emeret venderetve
pœnaque in Emptorem qui adversus id S. C. fecisset,
constituta esset, Ita vel is qui quicquid emisset duplum,
ejus quanti emisset in Ærarium inferri cogeretur & ejus
quam vendidisset irrita fieret Venditio: de iis autem qui
rerum suarum possessores futuri aliquas partes eorum mu-
tassent,

in a Wall when they were digging the Earth, some Years ago, near *Torre di Græco*, which is a Proof that *Herculaneum* extended from this Place to *Portici*; but its Breadth could not be great, as it was shut up between Mount *Vesuvius* and the Sea Shore.

The Inside of most of these Houses were painted in Fresco: In some of these Pictures are represented Fables and historical Pieces,

tassent, dummodo non Negotiationis mutassent, nihil esset novatum & Necessarii Alliatoræ Celsiliæ Uxoris Attil: Luperis ornatissimi viri exposuissent, huic ordini patrem ejus Attratorium Celsum, emisse fundos cum Ædificiis in Regione muliniensi qui vocarentur Camp. matri, In quibus Locis mercatus. . . . Superioribus solitus esset temporibus jam per aliquod desiisset haberi, eaque Ædificia longa vetustate dilaberentur neque refacta usui essent futura, quia nec habitaret in iis quisquam nec vellet in deserta eruentia commigrare ne quid fraud. multæ penæque essent Celsilia; si ea Ædificia de quibus in hoc ordine actum esset aut demolita fuissent, aut ea conditione, sive per se, sive cum agris vendidisset aut emptoris sine fraude sua ea destruere tollereque liceret.

In futuro autem admonendos cæteros esset ut abstinerent se a tam sædo genere Negotiationum, hoc præcipue sæculi quo excitari novari, ornari in universa quibus sælicitas orbis terrarum splenderet, magis convenire, quem ruinis Ædificiorum aliam partem de formem Italiæ & adhuc retinere priorum temporum, ita ut diceretur senectute actum censuere in Senatu.

We should have been glad to correct the Errors which have crept into this Inscription from the Original, but these Tables on which they were engraven have so often changed their Masters, that we know not where to find them.

and

and his Majesty has ordered as many of them to be removed as possible, but in most part of the Houses they are commonly of one Colour, and that red, with slight Ornaments as Birds resting on Ropes, or hung thereto by their Beaks, or the Feet: You also see some other Animals, and sometimes Flowers.

All the Streets are in regular Lines, with raised Rails on each Side for the Convenience of those on foot. They are paved with a kind of Stone like those with which the Streets of *Naples* are laid, and thence it is probable, that they had them from the same Quarry, the *Lava* of *Vesuvius*.

This manifestly proves the Errors of these Authors who contend that the Eruption which happened under the Reign of *Titus*, was the first from *Vesuvius*. For it is certain the *Vulcano* never throws out this *Lava* but in its most violent Eruptions, and there seems to be inexhaustible Mines of that Matter already thrown out; the Descriptions the Antients have left us is a further Proof of it.

“ This Place, says *Dionysius Halicarnassens* ”,
 “ is called *Flegreen*, because it had, in times
 “ past, vomited a Quantity of Fire as *Ætna*
 “ in *Sicily*. At present it is called *Vesuvius*,
 “ and still preserves many Marks of its Burn-
 “ ings.”

Strabo thus describes this Mountain^b,
 “ Mount *Vesuvius* is surrounded with a beau-
 “ tiful Country, except its Top, which is quite
 “ barren, and seems as if it was covered with
 “ Ashes: There are still to be seen Caverns,
 “ whose Openings are black with the Smoak,
 “ and calcined by the Fire, so that one would
 “ say, that this Place had formerly been burnt,
 “ and that it was a Vulcano, but had been
 “ extinguished for want of inflammable Ma-
 “ terials.”

“ They report, says *Vitruvius*^c, that an-
 “ tiently *Vesuvius* threw out a deal of Fire,
 “ and that it had spread a Quantity of Flame
 “ over the Country.”

Silius Italicus^d, who flourished under *Nero*,
 represents *Vesuvius* as a Mountain from which
 Fire had caused great Devastations, and de-
 stroyed even the Rocks on the Top of it.

Statius^e, who most probably wrote before
 the Empire of *Titus*, gives us nevertheless a
 distinct Idea of the Eruptions of *Vesuvius*.

^b *Strabo*, lib. v.

^c *Vitruv.* lib. ii. cap. vi.

^d *Monstratur Veseva juga atque in vertice summo,
 Depasti flammis scopuli fractusque ruina,
 Mons circum, &c. Silius Ital.* lib. vii.

^e *Hoc ego Calcidicis ad te Marcelle sonabam,
 Littoribus, fractas cum Vesuvius egerit Iras.*

Statius lib. iv. ver. 4.

“ We know, says *Pliny*^f the second, that,
 “ a Year before the Defeat and Death of *Cra-*
 “ *sus*, there fell in Lucania, a Shower of Mar-
 “ casite of Iron, which resembled Sponges.”

Julius Obsequens^e relates, in his Treatise of Prodigies, that under the Consulship of *Caius Martius III.* and *Titus Manlius Torquatus*, it rained Stones in *Rome*, and that it was dark as Night at Noon-day.

These Showers of Stones and Marcasites (happening the one 422 Years, and the other 132, before the Ruin of *Herculaneum*;) could proceed from nothing but *Vesuvius*, which always produced such Phænomena in its Burnings, and these are what they called *Showers of Ashes*. It is therefore past doubt that before the Reign of *Titus*, there had been Eruptions, and none should be surprized that the Ashes came into *Lucania*, and even as far as *Rome*, as Count *Marcellino*^h, Cardinal *Baronius*ⁱ, and *Procopius*^k, affirm; that these which had come from this Vulcano in the Eruption of 472, had covered all *Europe*; and that they were thrown by the Winds to *Constantinople*, where every Year they celebrate the Commemoration of it, on the fifth of *November*, with publick Orations *.

^f *Plin.* See lib. ii. c. 56.

^e *Julius Obsequens* de prodigii.

^h Croniche del Conte Marcellino.

ⁱ Annal. Baron.

^k *Procop.* lib. iii. cap. iv.

* This almost exceeds our Belief.

*Dionysius*¹ and *Agricola*^m inform us, that in the Eruption which destroyed *Herculaneum* and *Pompeja*, the Ashes were carried into *Africa*, *Egypt*, and *Syria*.

S E C T I O N VII.

Of the Paintings found in Herculaneum.

THE Paintings in Fresco, which are saved * from the Ruins of *Herculaneum* hitherto, and preserved in the Cabinet of his *Sicilian* Majesty, are of all Sizes, and in number about 400ⁿ; and the greatest part of them are as fresh as modern Paintings: But, excepting a Dozen of these Pieces which are of a natural Size, most of them are but 10 or 12 Inches long, and broad in proportion, representing only Cupids, wild Beasts, and Birds. These little Pieces are all valuable, but are no ways comparable with the large ones: In these the Figures are designed with all possible Correctness, and the Expression

¹ *Dion.* lib. xxxiv.

^m *Agricola* de natura eorum quæ affluunt in terra.

* That these Paintings might be saved, they put in Execution what *Varro* mentions to have been done with the Works of *Damophilus* and *Gorgasus* the celebrated Painters who embellished the Temple of *Ceres* near the *Circus Maximus* at Rome. *Ex hac cum rescicerentur crustas parietum excisas tabulis marginatis inclusas esse.* See *Dementiosus de pictura veteri*, *Junius de pictura veterum*.

ⁿ They continue to find more every Day.

seems to shew that nothing is wanting°. But there are few in which the Flesh Colours are perfect, which either may be owing to some Defect in the Painting, or an Alteration brought on by Time, the Colours being disagreeable and too much on the red; and besides, the Degradations are seldom observed.

One Colour often forms the Ground of these Pictures; the most esteemed of which are a naked Hercules, as big as the Life; a Satyr holding a Nymph in his Arms; *Theseus* receiving the Thanks of the *Athenian* Maidens, for having delivered them from the Minotaur; *Virginia* accompanied by her Father and *Icilius* her Lover, in the Moment that *Marcus Claudius* receives her before the Decemvir *Appius*, and the Education of *Achilles* by the Centaur *Chiron*. This last is most universally admired.

In general they are all better preserved * than the famous Marriage in the *Aldobrandini* Palace,

° *Solimena* said of them, that he never saw any Pieces of that Size so well done.—They were judged by all the Painters who saw them, to be extremely curious, both on account of the fine Drawing, after the Manner of *Raphael*, and also as they had lain so many Ages under Ground, without losing the Freshness of their Colours.

* The World is indebted to the *Marchese Venuti* that these Paintings are so well preserved; for observing that the Parget on which these Paintings were, being exposed to the open Air, had begun to give, he applied to his *Sicilian*

Palace, which, by this Discovery, loses its greatest Merit, as it is now no more a Rarity.

There is only one of these Paintings whose Ground forms a *perspective*, but this is enough to prove that it was not so strange among the Antients, as the Moderns would persuade us. Should not what *Plutarch*, *Vitruvius*, and *Suida* say, undeceive them in that Particular? They tell us, that *Agatharcas* of *Samos*, who flourished in *Athens* about the 75th *Olympiad*, had, in favour of *Æschylus*, invented the Decorations of the Theatre, according to all the Rules of Perspective, about which he likewise published a Treatise.

Among the Cities of *Lydia*, famous for the Temple of *Victory*, and for a pretended Prodigy, which, they say, happened before the Battle of *Pharsalia*. The Painter *Apalurius* had decorated the Theatre by the same Rules, and the Effects of it are not better explained by *Leonard. da Vinci* than *Plato* has done, in

lian Majesty for Leave, that an Acquaintance of his, Signior *Moriconi* of *Sicily*, an Officer in the Artillery, might attempt to do a Varnish over them, which should be transparent and stick on the Wall. As he had made many Improvements in Varnishing, he try'd it on some Fragments of the painted Walls, and it succeeded surprisngly, not only in preserving, but even in enlivening the Colours, so that they will remain for many Ages the Ornament of that King's Palace. See *Venuti's* Account of the first Discoveries of *Heraclea*, &c.

his Dialogue of the Sophist, and *Socrates* in the Tenth Book of his Republic.

Some of these Pictures are only of two Colours, others of them have three or four, and there is a Picture in Fresco which represents simple Ornaments, among which are different kinds of Flowers, and of all Colours; and there are green and blue in these as well as in many other of the Pictures.

It has hitherto then been believed without Foundation, that these two Colours were unknown to the Antients, to whom the Moderns, building upon a Passage of *Pliny*^p, do not allow of the Knowledge of any except the White of Melos, the Yellow of *Athens*, the Red of *Sinope*, and simple Black. But it seems to me that this Passage is interpreted too literally; so far is true indeed, that *Pliny* says that Painters in his Time made use of these four Colours, but he does not say that these were the only Colours they used. On the contrary, this Philosopher speaking of these of Sile^{*}, which *Polygnetes* and *Micon* made use of in painting the Porch (Πόικιλης-όα) of *Athens*^q, distinguishes the Blue into three Sorts; the two first of *Egypt* and *Scythia*, and the third of *Spain*, and *Puzzuoli*. In another Place he praises the

^p *Plin.* lib. xxxv. cap. 7.

^{*} A kind of yellow Earth, which, by Calcination makes a Vermilion for Painters.

^q *Plin.* lib. xxiii. cap. 13.

Purple^r of this last City, and gives it the Preference to that of *Getulia* and *Laconia*; and lastly, we cannot allow the Antients the Knowledge of the Yellow and the Blue, without agreeing at the same time, that they knew the Green, which is compounded of these two Colours: A Discovery too easily made to be overlooked, and such as could not escape Men so ingenious, and who made so frequent use of Painting †.

Nor will the World be surprized to see the Paintings of *Herculaneum* so fresh and well preserved, if they consider that they cannot have been long exposed to the Injuries of the Air. They must have been newly made at the Time they were buried under the Lava and Ashes of *Vesuvius*, as Painting in Fresco was then but lately discovered in *Italy*, where

^r *Plin. lib. xxxiv. cap. 7.*

† The Progress the Antients had made in Painting is beautifully described by *Petronius Arbiter*, for he says, *In Pinothecam perveni variogenere tabularum mirabilem. Nam & Zeuxidos manus vidi nondum vetustatis injuria victas, & Protogenis rudimenta cum ipsius naturæ veritate certantia, non sine quadam horrore tractavi. Jam vero Apellis quam Græci Μονοχρόμου appellant etiam adoravi. Tanta enim subtilitate extremitates imaginum erant ad similitudinem Præcisæ ut crederes etiam animorum esse picturam. Hinc aquila ferebat cælo sublimis Deum. Hinc candidus Hylas repellebat improbam Naiada. Damnabat Appollo noxias manus, Lyræque resolutam modo nato flore honorabat. Inter quos etiam pictorum amantium Vultus tanquam in solitudine exclamavi: Ergo amor etiam Deos tangit. Petron. Arbiter. Satyr. cap. 43.*

it was invented by *Ludius*^c, in the Reign of *Augustus*, whose Death happened about 73 Years before the Ruin of *Herculaneum*.

It is worth our notice, that this *Ludius* first painted Landskips and Architecture on Walls. Now what Idea can we form of this kind of work, pray, if we do not allow the Antients the Use of Green, and a Knowledge in Perspective ?

S E C T I O N VIII.

Of the Mosaic Work.

THERE are found in *Herculaneum* Mosaic Works likewise, and his *Sicilian* Majesty has ordered considerable Pieces of it to be taken up, hut they are without Beauty, Taste, Design, Variety, or Mixture of Colours, and you see nothing but Ornaments grossly executed, and of which I cannot give a better Idea, than by comparing them to *Turkey* Carpets. These Pieces of Mosaic are greatly inferior to those which are made at the *Vatican*, as the Antients only made use of them in the Pavements of their Houses and publick Buildings, called very properly, by *Vitruvius*, *Pavimentum Scetile*. Nevertheless they made some small Pictures of delicate Workmanship *, but

^c *Plin.* lib. xxxv. cap. 10.

* I have seen in the Palace of *Fuicetti* at *Rome*, a Piece

but always imperfect, as their Mosaic consisted only of natural Stones, and at present they use artificial ones, which are of all the Colours they can have occasion for.

SECTION IX.

Of the Statues.

THE Number of Statues found in *Herculaneum* is very great; those of Bronze are all bruised, broken or wanting in some part. There were likewise many, of which there are not the smallest Pieces saved. The Metal is so changed, that with great Difficulty they were able to restore five entirely. These represent *Nero* and *Germanicus*, as has been mentioned abovoe, *Claudius* and two Ladies, whose Names are not known; neither should we have known the others but by comparing them with the Medals we have of these Emperors.

The Marble Statues are hitherto unknown, except an *Atlanta*, a *Vespasian*, a *Mammius Maximus*, known by the Inscription ' en-

Piece of Mosaic, found in the Pavement of the *Villa Adriana*, near *Tivoli*, of most elegant Workmanship. There are some lately set up in the Capitol, not ill executed, (the Donation of the present Pope,) that Place serving now chiefly as a Repository for Antiquities.

' L MAMMIO MAXIMO AUGUSTALI
MUNICIPES & INCOLÆ ÆRE CONLATO.

G

graven

graven on the Pedestal, and some other Statues of the Family of *Balba*.

They only form vain Conjectures on the others; the greatest part of them are consular ones. The two placed on the Curule Chair, and which were found in the Forum, are comparable to any that Antiquity has left us most perfect in this kind, and all the others are much esteemed, particularly the Atlanta, in which they believe they can discover the Workmanship and Marble to be *Greek*.

They are busied at present in restoring an Equestrian Statue found in the Entrance of the Forum, just by that which was erected to *M. Nonius Balbus*.

As they have in digging discovered only the smallest Part of the City of *Herculaneum*, it is probable that there are still many other Statues in it. It is certain at least, that the Inhabitants erected one to *L. Munatius Concessianus*, as is evident by an Inscription * found accidentally

* L. MUNATIO CONCESSIONO V. P. PATRONO. COLONIAE. PRO. MERITIS. EJUS. ERGA. CIVES MUNIFICA. LARGITATE. OLIM HONOREM. DEVITUM. PRÆSTANTISSIMO. VIRO PRÆSENS TEMPUS EREGIT. QUO ETIAM MUNATI. CONCESSIONI FILI SUI DEMARCHIA CUMULATIORE. SUMPTU LIBERALITATIS ABUNDANTIA UNIVERSIS EXHIBUIT CIVIBUS OBQUE TESTIMONIA AMORIS SINCERISSIMI REQ. PRIMARIA SPLENDIDISSIMA

cidentally in digging between *Portici* and *Torre di Græco*. Among the small Statues of Bronze which they find every Day, there are many who seem to have been Penates or Household Gods of the *Herculaneans*. Among them there are some *Pantheas*; at least this is the Opinion of the Antiquaries about a *Mercury*, who holds in his Right Hand a full Purse, and in his Left a Crater, on which is a Tortoise; which perhaps is only an Allegory, to shew that Riches come as a Tortoise moves, or to shew that this God was the Inventor of that Instrument of Music called by the *Latins* *Phorminx*, and more commonly a *Testudo*, because in its Shape it bears some Resemblance to a Tortoise.

They have likewise dug up many Busts of Marble, the prettiest of which are these of *Jupiter Ammon*, of *Juno*, *Pallas*, *Ceres*, *Neptune*, *Mercury*, *Janus* with the two Faces, and of a Girl and a *Roman* Youth, with the Golden Bulla which hangs at the Breast. This is not in the Shape of a Heart, as some of the Moderns represent it, but of a regular oval Figure, is only an Inch broad, 17 Lines high, and 4 thick. This Bulla in so far differs from

SIMA HERCULANENSIIUM PATRONO MIRABILI STATUAM PONENDVM DECREVIT.

This Inscription is actually fixed on a Wall under the Gate which leads to the two Courts of the Nunnery of *St. Antonio* at *Naples*.

these which serv'd them who went in triumph, that those last were 2 Fingers and a half in diameter at least, and were of a round Shape.

They found but few Basso-relievos, and those so trifling, that they deserve not to be mentioned. The only one which merits Attention represents a Sacrifice.

SECTION X.

Of Medals.

THEY have found such a Number of Medals in *Herculaneum*, that we cannot undertake to give a Detail of them : A Subject so large would require a separate Treatise. They are mostly consular, or of the high Empire, and they are of every kind of Metal.

Altho' the Medals of that Time are common enough, yet they may still find some that are Curiosities, either for their Reverses, their Types, or their Legends ; and they have at least the Merit of being as well preserved as we could wish. May not we hope that antient *Herculaneum* will serve to enrich us with some Medals of Bronze of *Otho's* ? This Hope seems the better founded, as they are every Day digging out Medals of all the Emperors who went before, or came after, even to the Time of *Titus* and *Domitian*, which takes in all

all the high Empire. It is true, that the four first Emperors had fewer than their Successors, but they find a great Number of *Claudius*, *Nero*, *Galba*, some of *Vitellius*, and many of *Vespasian's* and *Titus*.

These of *Nero* merit little Attention, except a Medallion of Bronze: On one Side of it there is the Head of this Emperor, with the following Legend: NERO. CLAUDIUS. CÆSAR. AUG. GERMANICUS. P. M. TR. P. IMP. P. P. P. The reverse represents a Man sitting naked as low as the Belt, with the rest of his Body covered with Drapery, showing with his Right Hand a kind of Coffer, and holding in his Left a Rudder. There is before him a Lady on Foot, who presents him with a Cornucopia, and round it is written ANNONA. AUGUSTI CERES. which makes one think that the sitting Figure represents *Nero* himself, who holds the Rudder of State in his Hands, and that the Figure at his Foot is *Ceres*, or *Plenty*, who comes to receive his Orders, and opens her Treasures, which is pointed out by the Attitude of the Right Hand, which shews the kind of Chest like the Scrinium which is seen at the Feet of many Consular Statues. We don't find the *Senatus Consultum*, or *ex Senatû consulto* below, or in the Ground of the Reverse.

Those of *Vitellius* are rare to be met with, and nevertheless they find in these Ruins many

ny of Bronze, exceeding fine, both large and of a middle Size. The Legend of the Face of the Medal is almost always the same, A. VITELLIUS GERMANICUS IMP. AUG. P. M. TR. P. but the Reverses are different. In some of them is *Mars* holding a Spear in his Right Hand, and carrying the *Roman* Standard upon his Left Shoulder, without a Reading. In others *Peace* is represented, holding in one Hand a Branch of Olive, and in the other a Cornucopia, with these Words for the Reading, PAX AUGUSTI. On the Reverse of some middle-siz'd Medals of Brass of this same Emperor, is a sitting Figure, with the Edge of the Robe on the Right Arm, with which she seems to hide her Face, and has an Altar opposite to her. The Writing round about it is SECURITAS POPULI ROMANI, and on the lower Part S. C. but on the Reverses of the first and second kind, these Letters are on the Ground.

Among *Vespasian's* Medals there is one with this Reading round the Head, IMP. CÆSAR VESPASIAN. AUG. P. M. TR. P. P. COS. III. The Reverse represents a Lady sitting with her Back against a Palm, with her Head hanging down, supported on her Hand like one afflicted. Under the same Palm there is a Man a-foot, with his Hands chained behind his Back, and at the Side of this Slave is a Trophy

phy of Arms, with this Reading, IUDÆA CAPTA. and at the Foot of it S. C.

Every Medal which establishes a historical Fact, or which fixes an Epocha, is a curious Remain; but it acquires a new Value when its Type is rare. Such are the triumphal Chariots represented on the Emperor's Medals. The Ruins of *Herculaneum* afford few of this kind, nay they have only found one hitherto of *Titus*: The Reading round the Emperor's Head is T. CÆS. VESP. IMP. PON. TR. POT. COS. II. CENS. And on the Reverse a Quadriga, with four Horses in front, fastened to it, seeming to march slowly, while those which are fastened to the Chariots, destined for running in the Circus, seem to gallop; besides, that in these Chariots there are either a Pair of Horses or Tygers, and the Chariot is made like a Shell; but this which is on the Reverse of *Titus's* Medal is absolutely of the same Form with that which is represented on the *Basso Relievo*, upon the lateral Part of the Triumphal-Arch, erected to this Emperor by the *Roman* People.

This Chariot then does not point out the *Circæan* Games, which *Titus* might have given, but is the Symbol of a Triumph which was allowed him by the Senate for having conquered *Judæa* jointly with *Vespasian* his Father. This Reverse is without a Reading, and has only S. C. under it, as is common.

The Ruining of *Herculaneum* happened before the Reign of *Domitian* ; notwithstanding which they find Medals of this Emperor, which seems a Contradiction ; but the greatest Number of them were struck in his first Consulates, yet there are some even when he was Emperor. We must suppose then, that they were lost by those who antiently dug in this ruined City, either with a Design to make Researches, as we know by the old Diggings, of which we have spoken above, or to work at the Re-establishment of it, agreeable to the Orders of *Titus*, as has been before mentioned. This Emperor was snatched too soon out of this World, to have time to execute a Project so worthy of him ; probably *Domitian* his Successor would have followed his Footsteps, but that he having given Orders to begin the Work, it was abandoned too soon by those employed in it, from the little Hopes there was to succeed in so grand an Undertaking. This little Attempt of his, however, is sufficient to account for their finding this Emperor's Medals in the Ruins of *Herculaneum*.

They find likewise every kind of engraved Gemms in these Ruins, many of which are set in coarsely-worked Rings, but the Gemms are almost always perfect.

SECTION XI.

Of the Instruments and Utensils destined for the Sacrifices.

AS the Instruments and Utensils destined for the Sacrifices were not always of the same sort in that Ceremony, and as those which were of general use had nevertheless some Difference in their Shape, according to the Nature of the Sacrifice; it would be too tedious a Work here to describe all these which they have found in this City, and perhaps too difficult to mark out their Use and Destination. Let it suffice then to mention, that they are of every kind: Altars, for Sacrifices, for Libations; portable ones, like Tripods, called, by the *Latins*, *Anclabris*, Basons, Pateræ, Vessels to hold the Water for the Lustra, others for the Wine which they poured on the Victims Heads, Pots for the Libations, Hatchets, Knives for the Victims, Glasses to hold the Tears, &c. Part of these are of Marble, some of Brass, others of burnt Earth, and the last of Glass*.

* See an exact Diary of all the Curiosities they found daily in the Summer Season of 1739, in *Marchese Venuti's* Account of *Heraclea*, Part II. Ch. x. as a Specimen of the Variety of Curiosities found there, and which we dare not venture to tire the Reader with in this Place.

SECTION XII.

Of Lamps.

THE old Poets, speaking of *Herculaneum*, represent this City and its Environs as the Throne of *Venus* *. To judge of the Veneration that was paid this Deity, you need only observe these Lamps that they find in digging here. These of burnt Earth are modest, excepting a few on which you see those indecent Figures called by the Antients generally *Sphinctria*. But the Lamps of Brass are so many Monuments of the daily Homage they paid to this Goddess, and you may observe in their different Shapes all that the most unchaste Imagination can produce.

- * Hic est pampineis veridis modo Vesuvius umbris
 Presserat hic madidos mobilis Uva Lacus
 Hæc Juga, quam Nisæ colles plus Bacchus amavit
 Hoc nuper satyri monte dedere choros.
 Hæc veneris sedes Lacædemone gratior illi
 Hic locus Herculeo nomme clarus erat
 Cuncta jacent flammis & tristi merfa favilla ;
 Nec superi vellent hoc licuisse sibi.

MART. lib. iv. ep. 44.

SECTION XIII.

*Of the Furniture and other Curiosities found in
Herculaneum.*

THIS City furnishes us with Variety of Household Goods, which the Antients kept either for common Use or for their Pleasure. Among the Tables they have found, there is a very singular one of Basalt: Its Foot represents an Isis, and is of the same Stone. They conjecture from the Labour and the Design, that this Table must have come from *Egypt*.

We will not stop to examine the other Curiosities, which consist in Spoons, Urns, Vessels of every Size and Shape, Lamps like Candlesticks, different kinds of Kitchen Utensils, Bottles of Glass, Hammers and Bars of Doors, Dies to play with, Rings, Ear-rings, Bracelets, Stamps^v, which served as Seals for
H 2 their

^v It is greatly to be feared that the Hopes of the Learned will be disappointed in expecting to find Books in this subterranean City, as hitherto nothing of that kind has been found, either in the Temples or publick Buildings, excepting little Tablets of Silver and Brass, with the Dismission of the Soldiers marked on them, or a few *Greek* Characters like these preserved in the Gallery of the grand Duke in *Florence*, fastened together with Wire, or Clasps of Brass. And the more so as their Skeletons, and other Animal Substances, found there, are so brittle as not to be touched without crumbling down: Their Parchments
then

their Emperors, &c. The greatest part of them are of Brass, which proves that Iron was not much used by the Antients.

You may see, in the King's Cabinet, Corn and Bread of the *Herculaneans*, but both one and t'other are reduced to a kind of hard Charcoal, but still retain their Shape^z.

Would one think it possible, that, after 18 Centuries, there should still be preserved Remains of Ropes in this subterranean City? It is true, they are black, and as it were putrified, nevertheless they may be handled without reducing them to Powder.

There is Reason to believe that few People perished in *Herculaneum*, as they so rarely find Skeletons. Four or five Years ago, they found one lying on a Stair-case, with a Purse in his Hand, which you could easily distinguish the Shape of, from the Mark left in the Cement wherein were inclosed the Medals, of which the Purse was full, but the Skeleton

then stood no Chance. Some of the Brass Letters found in this Place are so like Types for Printing, that it is matter of great Amazement to the modern World that the Art of Printing should escape such ingenious Men as the Antients shewed themselves to be in every thing else.

^z *Marchese Venuti* says. that they found Eggs entire, wonderfully preserved; Almonds and Nuts, which kept their natural Colour, but that withinside their Pulp or Kernel was black as Charcoal. See Part II. Ch. ix.

was so brittle that it was impossible to dig it out *.

This admirable Collection of Antiquity will daily become more compleat as the Works advance ; and the Curious will find new Monuments, whereby they may settle their Doubts on the Epocha of a Number of historical Facts ; as likewise concerning the Customs, Arts, and Ceremonies of the Antients †.

* It will be difficult to reconcile this Conjecture or Evidence with what *Pliny* says of the Eruption, which he speaks of when he says, *Populum in theatro sedentem oblimavit*, unless we imagine that the Eruption which smothered this City the last time was posterior to that whereto *Pliny* refers. See likewise what *Dion* says, speaking of the Eruptions of *Vesuvius*, *Και προσέτι κ' πολεις δυο ὅλας τότε Ἡρкулανέον κ' τὰς Πομπείους ἐν διατρωτῶν ὀμίλου αὐτῆς καδημένου κατ' ἔχωσε*. Xiphilin. Epitome Dionis in Tito.

† They continue to employ a Number of Slaves at present in making Researches in this City, and every Day furnishes fresh Materials for the Observation of the Curious.

An Extract from XIPHILINUS's Epitome of DION, which makes particular mention of an Earthquake that happened under the Reign of Titus, attended with a violent Eruption of Mount Vesuvius, by which the Cities of Herculaneum and Pompeja were overwhelmed.

IN the Autumnal Season, some strange and frightful Things happened in *Campania*, for all of a sudden there broke out a great Fire from *Vesuvius*. This Mountain, which is near the Sea-shore of *Naples*, contains an unexhaustible Quantity of combustible Matter. At the Time when the Fire broke out, from the Middle of it, the Top was all of an equal Height. On the Outside it did not burn, and there it continues entire still, the Summit retaining its antient Height; but where the Fire issues forth it gradually becomes hollow, as it subsides, so as to resemble an Amphitheatre, if we may liken small Things to great. Its Summit produces plenty of Trees and Vines. This Circle enlarges daily by the Fire which smoaks in the Day-time and burns clear in the Night, as if they were offering up every kind of Sacrifice within the Mountain, and it does so continually, more or less. When any thing falls into it, it throws up Ashes, and Stones too, if the Wind blows hard. It likewise
echoes

echoes and makes a lowing Noise, as if it came thro' Rifts and secret Air-Vents, and was not pent up.

Such then is *Vesuvius*, and such its yearly Appearances; and altho' in comparison with what has past, they may seem extraordinary to these People who are constant Spectators, yet they will be looked on as trifling, compared with the present, which we shall now describe.

There appeared many great Men exceeding the common Size of Mankind, and such as Giants are described to be. They were seen in the Mountains and neighbouring Countries, and wandering up and down in the Towns adjacent, and likewise in the Air. After this there happened a great Drought from the extraordinary Heat and violent Earthquake, so that the whole Plains were dried up, and the Tops of the Hills subsided. The Noise under Ground was like Thunder, and on the Surface of the Earth it was like the Lowing of Cattle. The Sea raged, the Heavens resounded, and an unusual Noise was heard, as if Mountains clashed together. Then, for the first time, Stones of an extraordinary Size were thrown out at the Top, attended with Fire and Smoak, so that the Air was darkened thereby, and the Sun was hidden, as in the time of an Eclipse. Night sprung from Day, and Light from Darkness, and People imagined that the Giants had rebelled, as Images

ges of them were seen in the Smoak, and the Sounding of Trumpets was heard. Others thought that *Chaos* was come again, and that the general Conflagration was at hand. These things made People run out of their Houses into the Streets, and those who were in the Streets go within Doors. Those who were on Shipboard went ashore, and these on Land went aboard, every one thinking that any Situation was better than their present one. And along with all this, there were such Quantities of Ashes as possessed all Space, Earth, Sea, and Air; and wherever it happened, it did hurt both to Men, the Cattle, and the Grounds, and the Fishes, and all the Birds were destroyed. The two Cities of *Herculeum* and *Pompeja* were entirely overwhelmed, while the People were sitting in the Theatre. Such Quantities of Ashes were thrown out as to reach *Africa*, *Syria*, *Egypt*, and *Rome*; and filled the Air in this last Place so as to darken the Sun, and struck the People with a Pannic for many Days: Not being able to conjecture what all this meant, they imagined that Nature was turned Upside down; that the Sun was lost in the Earth; and that the Earth was gone up to Heaven. Altho' these Ashes did little Damage at that Time to the *Roman* People, yet afterwards they brought on a direful Pestilence *.

* See *Xiphilinus's* Epitome of *Dion* in *Tito*.

PLINY's LETTER
TO
TACITUS*.

YOUR Request that I would send you an Account of my Uncle's Death, in order to transmit a more exact Relation of it to Posterity, deserves my Acknowledgments; for if this Action shall be celebrated by your Pen, the Glory of it, I am well assured, will be rendered for ever illustrious. And notwithstanding he perished by a Misfortune, which, as it involved at the same time a most beautiful Country in Ruins, and destroyed so many populous Cities, seems to promise him an everlasting Remembrance; notwithstanding he has himself composed many and lasting Works; yet I am persuaded, the mentioning of him in your immortal Writings, will greatly contribute to eternize his Name. Happy I esteem those to be, whom Providence has distinguished with the Abilities either of doing such Actions as are worthy of being related, or of relating

* See *Pliny's Letters*, lib. vi. lett. 16.

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them

them in a manner worthy of being read ; but doubly happy are they who are blessed with both these uncommon Talents : In the Number of which my Uncle, as his own Writings, and your History will evidently prove, may justly be ranked. It is with extreme Willingness, therefore, I execute your Commands ; and should indeed have claimed the Task if you had not enjoined it. He was at that Time with the Fleet under his Command at *Misenum*. On the 24th of *August*, about one in the Afternoon, my Mother desired him to observe a Cloud which appeared of a very unusual Size and Shape. He had just returned from taking the Benefit of the Sun, and after bathing himself in cold Water, and taking a slight Repast, was retired to his Study. He immediately arose, and went out upon an Eminence from whence he might more distinctly view this very uncommon Appearance. It was not at that Distance discernible from what Mountain this Cloud issued, but it was found afterwards to ascend from Mount *Vesuvius*. I cannot give you a more exact Description of its Figure, than by resembling it to that of a Pine-tree, for it shot up a great Height in the Form of a Trunk, which extended itself at the Top into sort of Branches ; occasioned, I imagine, either by a sudden Gust of Air that impelled it, the Force of which decreased as it advanced upwards, or the Cloud itself being pressed

pressed back again by its own Weight, expanded in this Manner: It appeared sometimes bright, and sometimes dark and spotted, as it was either more or less impregnated with Earth and Cinders. This extraordinary Phænomenon excited my Uncle's philosophical Curiosity to take a nearer View of it. He ordered a light Vessel to be got ready, and gave me the Liberty, if I thought proper, to attend him. I rather chose to continue my Studies; for, as it happened, he had given me an Employment of that kind. As he was coming out of the House he received a Note from *Rectina* the Wife of *Bassus*, who was in the utmost Alarm at the imminent Danger which threatened her; for her Villa being situated at the Foot of Mount *Vesuvius*, there was no way to escape but by Sea; she earnestly intreated him therefore to come to her Assistance. He accordingly changed his first Design, and what he began with a philosophical, he pursued with an heroical Turn of Mind. He ordered the Gallies to put to Sea, and went himself on board with an Intention of assisting not only *Rectina*, but several others; for the Villas stand extremely thick upon that beautiful Coast. When hastening to the Place from whence others fled with the utmost Terror, he steer'd his direct Course to the Point of Danger, and with so much Calmness and Presence of Mind, as to be able to make and dictate his

Observations upon the Motion and Figure of that dreadful Scene. He was now so nigh the Mountain, that the Cinders, which grew thicker and hotter the nearer he approached, fell into the Ships, together with Pumice-stones, and black Pieces of burning Rock: They were likewise in danger not only of being aground by the sudden Retreat of the Sea, but also from the vast Fragments which rolled down from the Mountain, and obstructed all the Shore. Here he stopped to consider whether he should return back again; to which the Pilot advising him, *Fortune*, said he, *be-friends the Brave; Carry me to Pomponianus.* *Pomponianus* was then at *Stabiæ*, separated by a Gulf, which the Sea, after several intestine Windings, forms upon the Shore. He had already sent his Baggage on board; for tho' he was not at that Time in actual Danger, yet being within the View of it, and indeed extremely near, if it should in the least encrease, he was determined to put to Sea as soon as the Wind should change. It was favourable, however, for carrying my Uncle to *Pomponianus*, whom he found in the greatest Consternation: He embraced him with Tenderness, encouraged and exhorted him to keep up his Spirits, and the more to dissipate his Fears, he ordered, with an Air of Unconcern, the Baths to be got ready; when after having bathed, he sat down to Supper with great Chearfulness,

or

or at least (what is equally heroic) with all the Appearance of it. In the mean while the Eruption from Mount *Vesuvius* flamed out in several Places with much Violence, which the Darkness of the Night contributed to render still more visible and dreadful. But my Uncle, in order to sooth the Apprehensions of his Friend, assured him it was only the burning of the Villages, which the Country People had abandoned to the Flames: After this he retired to rest, and it is most certain he was so little discomposed as to fall into a deep Sleep; for being pretty fat, and breathing hard, those who attended without actually heard him snore. The Court which led to his Apartment being now almost filled with Stones and Ashes, if he had continued there any time longer, it would have been impossible for him to have made his way out; it was thought proper therefore to awaken him. He got up, and went to *Pomponianus* and the rest of his Company, who were unconcerned enough to think of going to Bed. They consulted together whether it would be most prudent to trust to the Houses, which now shook from Side to Side with frequent and violent Concussions; or fly to the open Fields, where the calcined Stones and Cinders, tho' light indeed, yet fell in large Showers, and threatened Destruction. In this Distress they resolved for the Fields, as the less dangerous Situation of
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the two : A Resolution which, while the rest of the Company were hurried into by their Fears, my Uncle embraced upon cool and deliberate Consideration. They went out then, having Pillows tied upon their Heads with Napkins; and this was their whole Defence against the Storm of Stones that fell round them. It was now Day every where else, but there a deeper Darknes prevailed than in the most obscure Night; which however was in some Degree dissipated by Torches and other Lights of various kinds. They thought proper to go down farther upon the Shore, to observe if they might safely put out to Sea, but they found the Waves still run extremely high and boisterous. There my Uncle having drank a Draught or two of cold Water, threw himself down upon a Cloth which was spread for him, when immediately the Flames, and a strong Smell of Sulphur, which was the Forerunner of them, dispersed the rest of the Company, and obliged him to arise. He raised himself up with the Assistance of two of his Servants, and instantly fell down dead; suffocated, as I conjecture, by some gross and noxious Vapor, having always had weak Lungs, and frequently subject to a Difficulty of breathing. As soon as it was light again, which was not till the third Day after this melancholy accident, his Body was found entire, and without any Marks of Violence upon it, exactly in
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the same Posture that he fell, and looking more like a Man asleep than dead. During all this Time my Mother and I who were at *Misenum*——But as this has no Connection with your History, so your Inquiry went no farther than concerning my Uncle's Death; with that therefore I will put an End to my Letter: Suffer me only to add, that I have faithfully related to you what I was either an Eye-Witness of myself, or received immediately after the Accident happened, and before there was time to vary the Truth. You will choose out of this Narrative such Circumstances as shall be most suitable to your Purpose: For there is a great Difference between what is proper for a Letter, and an History; between writing to a Friend, and writing to the Publick. Farewel.

To CORNELIUS TACITUS *.

THE Letter which, in compliance with your Request, I wrote to you concerning the Death of my Uncle, has raised, it seems, your Curiosity to know what Terrors and Dangers attended me while I continued at *Misenum*; for there, I think, the Account in my former broke off:

* *Pliny's Letters*, book vi. lett. 20.

Tho' my shock'd Soul recoils, my Tongue shall tell.

My Uncle having left us, I pursued the Studies which prevented my going with him, till it was Time to bathe. After which I went to Supper, and from thence to Bed, where my Sleep was greatly broken and disturbed. There had been for many Days before some Shocks of an Earthquake, which the less surprized us as they are extremely frequent in *Campania* ; but they were so particularly violent that Night, that they not only shook every thing about us, but seemed indeed to threaten total Destruction. My Mother flew to my Chamber, where she found me rising, in order to awaken her. We went out into a small Court belonging to the House, which separated the Sea from the Buildings. As I was at that Time but eighteen Years of Age, I know not whether I should call my Behaviour in this dangerous Juncture, Courage or Rashness ; but I took up *Livy*, and amused myself with turning over that Author, and even making Extracts from him, as if all about me had been in full Security. While we were in this Posture, a Friend of my Uncle's, who was just come from *Spain* to pay him a Visit, joined us, and observing me sitting by my Mother with a Book in my Hand, greatly condemned her Calmness, at the same Time that he reproved me

me for my careless Security: Nevertheless I still went on with my Author. Tho' it was now Morning, the Light was exceedingly faint and languid; the Buildings all around us tottered, and tho' we stood upon open ground, yet as the Place was narrow and confined, there was no remaining there without certain and great Danger: We therefore resolved to quit the Town. The People followed us in the utmost Consternation, and (as to a Mind distracted with Terror, every Suggestion seems more prudent than its own) pressed in great Crowds about us in our Way out. Being got at a convenient Distance from the Houses, we stood still, in the Midst of a most dangerous and dreadful Scene. The Chariots which we had ordered to be drawn out, were so agitated backwards and forwards, tho' upon the most level Ground, that we could not keep them steady, even by supporting them with large Stones. The Sea seemed to roll back upon itself, and to be driven from its Banks by the convulsive Motion of the Earth; it is certain at least the Shore was considerably enlarged, and several Sea-Animals were left upon it. On the other Side, a black and dreadful Cloud bursting with an igneous serpentine Vapour, darted out a long Train of Fire, resembling Flashes of Lightning, but much larger. Upon this our *Spanish* Friend, whom I mentioned above, addressing himself to my Mother and me with greater

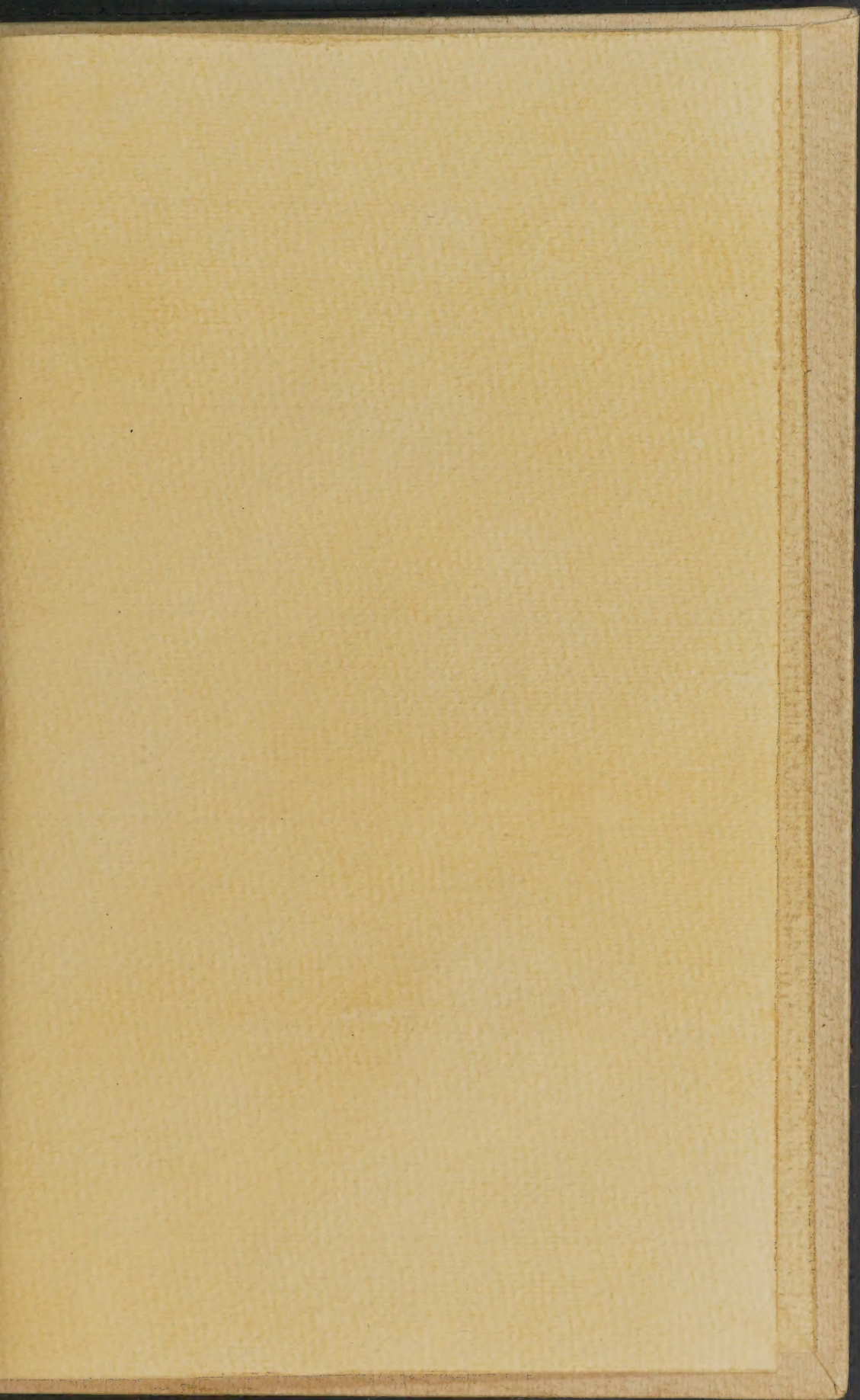
Warmth and Earnestness: *If your Brother and your Uncle, said he, is safe, he certainly wishes you may be so too; but if he perished, it was his Desire, no doubt, that you might both survive him: Why therefore do you delay your Escape a Moment?* We could never think of our own Safety, we said, while we were uncertain of his. Hereupon our Friend left us, and withdrew from the Danger with the utmost Precipitation. Soon afterwards the Cloud seemed to descend, and cover the whole Ocean; as indeed it entirely hid the Island of *Caprea*, and the Promontory of *Misenum*. My Mother strongly conjured me to make my Escape at any rate, which as I was young, I might easily do; as for herself, she said, her Age and Corpulency rendered all Attempts of that sort impossible; however she should willingly meet Death, if she could have the Satisfaction of seeing that she was not the Occasion of mine. But I absolutely refused to leave her, and taking her by the Hand, I led her on: She complied with great Reluctance, and not without many Reproaches to herself for retarding my Flight. The Ashes now began to fall upon us, tho' in no great Quantity. I turned my Head, and observed behind us a thick Smoak, which came rolling after us like a Torrent. I proposed while we had yet any Light, to turn out of the high Road, lest she should be pressed to death in the Dark, by the Crowd that followed us. We had scarce stepped

ped out of the Path, when a Darknefs overspread us, not like that of a cloudy Night, or when there is no Moon, but of a Room when it is shut up, and all the Lights extinct. Nothing then was to be heard but the Shrieks of Women, the Screams of Children, and the Cries of Men; some calling for their Children, others for their Parents, others for their Husbands, and only distinguishing each other by their Voices; one lamenting his own Fate, another that of his Family; some wishing to die, from the very Fear of dying, some lifting up their Hands to the Gods; but the greater part imagining that the last and eternal Night was come, which was to destroy both the Gods and the World together. Among these there were some who augmented the real Terrors by imaginary ones, and made the frightened Multitude falsely believe that *Misenum* was actually in Flames. At length a glimmering Light appeared, which we imagined to be rather the Forerunner of an approaching Burst of Flames, (as in truth it was) than the Return of Day: However, the Fire fell at a Distance from us: Then again we were immersed in thick Darknefs, and a heavy Shower of Ashes rained upon us, which we were obliged every now and then to shake off, otherwise we should have been crushed and buried in the Heap. I might boast, that during all this Scene of Horror, not a Sigh or Expression of Fear escaped from me, had not

my Support been founded in that miserable, tho' strong Consolation, that all Mankind were involved in the same Calamity, and that I imagined I was perishing with the World itself. At last this dreadful Darkness was dissipated by degrees, like a Cloud or Smoak; the real Day returned, and even the Sun appeared, tho' very faintly, and as when an Eclipse is coming on. Every Object that presented itself to our Eyes (which were extremely weakened) seemed changed, being covered over with white Ashes, as with a deep Snow. We returned to *Misenum*, where we refreshed ourselves as well as we could, and passed an anxious Night between Hope and Fear; tho' indeed with a much larger Share of the latter: For the Earthquake still continued, while several enthusiastick People ran up and down heightening their own and their Friends Calamities, by terrible Predictions. However, my Mother and I, notwithstanding the Danger we had passed, and that which still threatened us, had no Thoughts of leaving the Place, till we should receive some Account of my Uncle.——

And now you will read this Narrative without any View of inserting it in your History, of which it is by no means worthy; and indeed you must impute it to your own Request, if it shall appear scarce to deserve even the Trouble of a Letter. *Farewel.*

F I N I S.



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